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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS COOPERATION IN SCIENCE¹

As investigators in science a great burden of responsibility rests on us. What our sciences shall be in the middle of the century depends on how we build at the opening of the century. History shows this to be so. In the last century embryology attained its importance because of the activity of its founders, including Wolff, von Baer, Kowalevsky and Balfour, while modern cytology received its impetus from the labors of such men as Fol, Flemming, Hertwig and Mark. As we look to the work of these men, so the future investigators will look back to us with a true and final judgment and determine our place in the development of our subjects. Well were it for us if this decade, this year and this meeting were memorable for an increased devotion to the scientific interests of which we have become the trustees. To advance these interests we should do well to adopt principles which have worked successfully in other fields of activity. In the modern commercial world one of the most important principles is cooperation. Let us consider the development of cooperation in science to learn how it may be advantageously applied further among naturalists.

The ancient Greeks made investigation of nature primarily to illustrate their personal systems of philosophy. This form of investigation, unhappily not yet wholly obsolete, is manifestly incompatible with

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¹ Annual address of president read before American Society of Naturalists, December 29, 1906.